

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for controlling access to a data communication network, comprising the steps of:

upon connection of a user to a network service provider, checking data of
5 the user who wishes to make the connection and comparing said data with a database in order to define a user profile;

according to the user profile, allowing free access to said network, and if said user is a minor, accessing said network with a controlled navigation step.

10 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said user profile identification step consists in comparing the data entered by said user in order to access the network with a database which contains the profiles of users registered with said service provider.

15 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said controlled navigation step comprises checking for the presence, in the sites that said user wishes to visit, of a keyword suitable to identify said site as accessible or not accessible to the minor user.

20 4. The method according to claim 3, wherein said navigation step furthermore comprises, if said site that the user wishes to visit is tagged by an accessibility key, the step that consists in checking for the presence of preset keywords in the pages of said site.

25 5. The method according to claim 3, wherein if said accessibility key or said non-accessibility key are not present in said site that the user intends to visit, a step is performed which consists in checking for the presence of preset keywords in the pages of said site.

6. The method according to claim 1, comprising a step that consists in preparing a report of the navigation performed by said user and in sending said report to the parents of said minor user.

30 7. A device for controlling access to a data communication network, comprising means for registering at least one user for enabling access to a

data communication network;

means for authenticating said user;

means for storing the profile of said user; and

means for controlling the sites that can be visited by said user on said

- 5 data communication network, in order to allow a controlled navigation of said user on said data communication network if said user is a minor.